
MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Justin Moore and City of Dalhart Council Members

FROM: Alan Bojorquez, Special Counsel

DATE: January 6, 2023

RE: REDISTRICTING: City of Dalhart Draft Map “B” Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the City of Dalhart with our analysis of Draft Map “B” (the “plan”) based on the criteria approved by the City Council on December 14, 2022, and the five basic legal standards that govern the Redistricting process. The plan meets all of the City’s Redistricting criteria and satisfies the applicable legal standards. The plan has been made available for public review and comment. The plan represents a calculated modification to the City’s existing wards based on anticipated growth and thus is likely to maintain proportional balance for the voters throughout the next few elections. Therefore, the plan is generally acceptable and eligible for consideration by the City Council.

A. Criteria Compliance

The Redistricting criteria established by resolution of the City Council was used in the redrawing of ward boundaries that resulted in the creation of the plan. Every effort was made to preserve the basic configuration of the existing wards while attempting to balance the existing wards in light of the 2020 Census Data. The plan meets all of the following objectives:

- Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
- Communities of interest should be maintained in a single ward, where possible, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
- To the extent possible, wards should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, wards should be drawn in a way that permits the creation of practical voting precincts and that ensures that adequate facilities for polling places exist in each voting precinct.
- Any redistricting plan should, to the extent possible, be based on existing wards.

- Wards must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the best available data, including the 2020 Federal Census. In no event, should the total maximum deviation between the largest and the smallest ward exceed ten percent (10%).
- The wards should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.
- Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.
- The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
- The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §1973.

B. Rationale for Boundary Changes

Using 2020 US Census Data, the existing wards show that Ward 2 is the most under-populated ward with 1,652 people, which is -448 people (-21.33%) under the ideal ward size of 2,100 people. Ward 4 is the most populated ward with 2,496 people, which is 396 people (18.86%) above the ideal ward size of 2,100 people.

In order to achieve balanced wards, as required by the One Person-One Vote Constitutional principle, Ward 2 needs to gain population while Ward 4 needs to lose population with only minor reapportionment of the population of Wards 1 and 3 to achieve a substantially equal population. Satisfying the City’s Redistricting criteria, preserving the basic configuration of current boundary lines, and satisfying the legal requirements necessitated slight changes to the existing plan.

C. General Observations (comparison with existing wards)

- Under the plan, Ward 1 gains 24 people in order to substantially balance the wards. Ward 1 in the plan has a population of 2,047 people, which is -2.52% below the ideal ward size of 2,100. The existing ward is currently -3.67% below the ideal ward size.
- Under the plan, Ward 2 gains 513 people in order to substantially balance the wards. Ward 2 in the plan has a population of 2,165 people, which is 3.10% above the ideal ward size of 2,100. The existing ward is currently -21.33% below the ideal ward size.
- Under the plan, Ward 3 loses 170 people in order to substantially balance the wards. Ward 3 in the plan has a population of 2,059 people, which is -1.95% below the ideal ward size of 2,100. The existing ward is currently 6.14% above the ideal ward size.

- Under the plan, Ward 4 loses 367 people in order to substantially balance the wards. Ward 4 in the plan has a population of 2,129 people, which is 1.38% above the ideal ward size of 2,100. The existing ward is currently 18.86% above the ideal ward size.

D. Demographics

(1) Balance

For purposes of achieving the One Person / One Vote requirement, the current system has a Total Deviation of **40.19%**. Draft Map “B” has a Total Deviation of **5.62%**, which is within the acceptable 10% (+/-) range.

(2) Racial & Ethnic

Under the plan, the Hispanic population maintains a majority-influence population in Wards 1 and 3.

For Hispanic persons, the relevant ward percentages are as follows:

Ward 1: **63.90%** (down from benchmark of 63.91%)
60.79%VAP (down from benchmark VAP of 60.93%)

Ward 2: **44.06%** (up from benchmark of 43.46%)
40.10%VAP (up from benchmark VAP of 39.53%)

Ward 3: **57.84%** (down from benchmark of 58.10%)
52.78%VAP (down from benchmark VAP of 53.50%)

Ward 4: **22.73%** (down from benchmark of 25.28%)
19.52%VAP (down from benchmark VAP of 21.94%)

For Black persons, the relevant ward percentages are as follows:

Ward 1: **1.03%** (down from benchmark of 1.04%)
1.09%VAP (down from benchmark VAP of 1.11%)

Ward 2: **1.06%** (up from benchmark of 0.91%)
0.96%VAP (up from benchmark VAP of 0.92%)

Ward 3: **1.46%** (down from benchmark of 1.62%)
1.70%VAP (down from benchmark VAP of 1.85%)

Ward 4: **0.14%** (down from benchmark of 0.20%)
0.13%VAP (up from benchmark VAP of 0.11%)

E. Conclusion

Draft Map “B” is a viable option for consideration by the City Council. It will be subjected to an open, transparent public process which will include a public hearing held on January 9, 2023. The plan satisfies all of the criteria approved by the City Council at the outset of this process and conforms to the legal standards that apply to Redistricting. We have neither procedural nor legal concerns with the approval of this plan.

cc: Stacey Norris, City Manager, City of Dalhart
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